

What is Sand? A Forensic Investigation!

What did you bring back from the beach?

After a trip to the beach you probably didn't think you had brought much back with you; after all, you were told to take nothing but pictures and leave only footprints. But you will be surprised at what you actually have!

Before you head off to the beach, make sure you give the bus a good sweep (make it as clean as possible as a baseline for your collection).

When you get back from the field trip, follow these steps to determine what you actually brought back with you.

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Give the bus a good sweep when you return from your field trip. Collect the sand and other materials, and place on an A3 piece of paper for investigation.**
 - a. What weight of material did you collect?
 - b. Using the magnifying glass (or microscope), what were the main types of material in the collection?
- 2. Carefully pull out your pockets over another piece of A3 paper and using the brush, remove the contents of your pockets. Do the same with your shoes.**
 - a. What weight of material did you collect?
 - b. Using the magnifying glass (or microscope), what were the main types of material in the collection?
- 3. Use your observations from the above investigation to answer the following questions:**
 - a. How much material did all the participants collect?
 - b. What did most of the material collected consist of?
 - c. Discuss where the materials came from, e.g. was there just beach sand or were other materials collected?

MATERIALS

A3 paper or black card
Brush
Broom
Magnifying glass
Scales
Microscope (optional)

